preliminary necessary action and released the "Operational Guidelines" to implement the scheme. Before projects are sanctioned under the scheme and funds released, approval of token supplementary in the last batch of supplementary grant is required, as the scheme attracts provision of New Service. Ministry of Finance, however, has approved the proposal in principle.

NWDPRA Scheme in A.P.

2086. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current status of National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas Scheme in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have evaluated the success of the scheme in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas is currently being implemented in 150 watersheds in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have got evaluation studies conducted in respect of Narvagedda watershed, Emboy watershed, Sirpur watershed and Bukkapattanam watershed by Agro Economic Research Centre, Agricultural Finance Corporation and All India Soil and Land Use Survey Organization. The findings of the evaluation studies reveal that yield of major agricultural crops improved significantly by 25% to 200%, run off reduced by upto 25%, soil loss reduced by up to 15% and sediment discharge reduced by up to 20%. The net profit of beneficiary family by growing ground nut crop was assessed to be Rs. 4016 per hectare in Narvagedda watershed.

Availability of genetically improved cotton and rice

2087. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether genetically engineered/improved cotton and rice is likely to be made available to farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?